

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

We all know that there would be incredible outrage, and rightfully so, if stations were going to air Michael Moore's movie under the guise of it being news. In fact, Mr. Moore is calling Sinclair's bluff of "fair reporting" by offering them the opportunity to air his movie, Fahrenheit 9/11, free of charge immediately following their anti-Kerry propaganda film.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.